

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC  
SITE

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AUGUST 4, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. MURRAY, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
submitted the following

## R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1448]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1448) to change the name of the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park at Hodgenville, Ky., to Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

At lines 4-5 and 9-10, strike the words "Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace" and insert in lieu thereof the words "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site."

## BACKGROUND OF LEGISLATION

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, on a farm in Hardin County, Ky. Later Larue County was established and Lincoln's birthplace now is located in Larue County, a few miles from the county seat at Hodgenville, Ky. On the original farm the cabin believed to be the one in which Lincoln was born still stands in a marble memorial.

In 1916 Lincoln's birthplace was made a national park and was named Abraham Lincoln National Park by the act of July 17, 1916 (39 Stat. 385). Later this name was changed to the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park by the act of August 11, 1939 (53 Stat. 1405).

It is the belief of the sponsors of S. 1448 that this unit of our national parks system should be designated as Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace to distinguish it from the many parks and shrines which mark Abraham Lincoln's life. The committee agrees that the birthplace of our 16th President, the sesquicentennial of whose birth we are celebrating this year, should be more descriptively designated rather than generally

labeled. It is the committee's judgment that the desired objective can be accomplished through this bill, as amended. The amendments adopted were suggested by the Department of the Interior in its report to the committee, which is set forth below.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, D.C., June 9, 1959.*

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: Your committee has requested a report on S. 1448, a bill to change the name of the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park at Hodgenville, Ky., to Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace.

We recommend the enactment of S. 1448, if amended as suggested below.

The purpose of this bill, as stated in the title, is to change the name of the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park at Hodgenville, Ky., to a more descriptive one, that of Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace.

The National Park Service has drawn up a classification list of the various areas which it administers, giving each a uniform administrative title which will better reflect the type of area involved. Whenever possible this Department has recommended changes of name to reflect this classification system. Ultimately it is desired that this system will cover all areas administered by the Park Service so that each area name will reflect and indicate the type of area administered.

While the proposed change of name in S. 1448 does more clearly identify Lincoln's association with the area, it does not reflect the type of area involved, nor does the existing name.

We suggest, therefore, that the bill be amended by striking the words "Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace" wherever they appear in the bill, and by inserting in their place the following words, "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site."

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

ROGER ERNST,  
*Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

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